

bove, several types of exploded ordnance are displayed. Finding nd clearing exploded and unexploded ordnance on the Nellis ange are the most labor-intensive jobs EOD does each week. elow, Tech. Sgt. John Holland shows off the M-82 Barrett niper rifle. This weapon is used to "reach out and touch" the nexploded munitions. This is the least hazardous method of estroying munitions.

Below, Senior Airman Scott Eastes identifies an unexploded munition. Once it is positively identified, it will be destroyed.





EOD is more than a bomb squad...a lot more

By 2nd Lt. Carla Pampe **AWFC Public Affairs**

When most people think of Air Force that comes to mind is bomb detection.

While that is an important function of McReynolds, 99th Civil Engineer Squadthan just a bomb squad."

Tech. Sgt. Ed Dominguez, NCOIC of support equipment sets." Quality Assurance for Nellis' EOD flight, explains.

"We are required to support our mission. flightline and base operations, meaning if an aircraft has an ordnance-related problem which can't be solved, we will be called to respond. On the operations side of the house, if there is a package will be tasked to respond," he said. "What in dry areas for their solders." takes up a large amount of our time here at Nellis is the millions of acres of bombing range that we are required to make safe so that contractor personnel may

Nellis on-base emergency response, offbase emergency response, the Nevada Test and Training Range, the Nevada Test explosive ordnance disposal, one thing Site, support for the U.S. Secret Service to a Khobar Towers-type device.' and specialized training.

"Our number-one job is to be ready to the Nellis EOD team, Maj. Jim go to war or be ready to deploy in support response. When an emergency situation of a contingency," said Maj. McReynolds. ron EOD commander, said, "EOD is more "Our flight has taskings under nine out of 10 AEFs, We provide lead, follow and base

> Sgt. Dominguez agrees that worldwide combat support is EOD's most important

"We have a lot of functions which are all equally important, but we are here for war time," Sgt. Dominguez said. "The most tasked to clear land mines in Bosnia for which is suspected to be hazardous we the Army so that they could set up tents

> Another primary mission of EOD is serving as Nellis' first response team for emergencies involving explosives.

"We are the direct support unit for the safely enter the target areas to refurbish largest above-ground weapons storage facility in the nation. We provide emergency The Nellis EOD team actually has a varesponse for all assigned aircraft and riety of responsibilities, including world- munitions, as well as aircraft participat-

wide combat support and force protection, ing in flag exercises," said Maj. McReynolds. "We also provide force protection for Nellis against a terrorist's improvised devices, from a simple pipe bomb

> One of the more visible areas of responsibility for EOD is the off-base emergency arises off base that local agencies aren't only mission where EOD does search," equipped to handle, they call the Nellis EOD team.

lationship with the Las Vegas Fire taries." Department's bomb squad, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Fire- ing Range. arms," Maj. McReynolds said. "We have a munity doesn't have."

counter large-volume or vehicle-impro- power." vised explosive devices, and small robots devices that may be time or remotely initiated. In addition, Nellis' EOD unit also has personnel protective equipment, detection, packaging, and capabilities to McReynolds said. deal with a full spectrum of weapons of

mass destruction threats.

"We have the ability to address any military ordnance hazards, and the manpower to deal with large-scale incidents," Maj. McReynolds said.

When needed, the EOD team also provides Secret Service support.

"Our work with the secret service is the Maj. McReynolds said. "In that mission, we protect the president, vice president, "We maintain a very strong working re- presidential candidates and other digni-

One of the most time-consuming missions performed by the Nellis EOD team Federal Bureau of Investigation and the is supporting the Nevada Test and Train-

"This is most hazardous thing we do," rewarding time for me was when I was lot of capabilities that the off-base com- the major said. "We do active range clearance of 3.5 million acres, and clear three These include robotics: large robots cluster bomb unit grids. It takes up most (All-purpose Remote Transport System) to of our time, and a majority of our man-

> In order to maintain proficiency in all to counter smaller improvised explosive their taskings, EOD members don't just train hard, they train smart.

> > "I would not be setting my people up for success if I didn't train them," Maj.

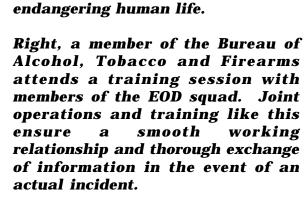
That training includes physical conditioning every morning at the Area Two gym, training on terrorist devices and weapons of mass destruction and a joint exercise with regional federal, state, local and DoD agencies called LOADED DICE.

"Our vision is to field the best quality trained, finest equipped and most confident EOD team in the Air Force," said Maj. McReynolds. "To do that, we make training our number-one priority."

Such intense training has paid off in the past, earning the Nellis EOD flight the Senior Master Sgt. Gerald J. Stryzak Award for "Best EOD Flight in the Air Force" in 1996, and again in 1999.

"We are the only two-time winner of this award," Maj. McReynolds said. "By far, this is the best place in the Air Force to





Left, Staff Sgt. Amanda Homer

places a device for the robot to

remove during an exercise. In many

situations, the robot is the best way

to remove explosives and avoid



Staff. Sgt. Michael Bibb, 99th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Flight, puts on an explosive protective suit with the help of Airman 1st Class J Brodeaur. The suit will greatly increase his chance of survival if something goes wrong while disarming or moving a suspected explosive.